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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *106<sup>th</sup>* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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## *House of Representatives*

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez  
Tribute to Nation's Police Officers  
May 17, 2000

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the police officers of this nation, especially those of the 46<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in Orange County.

Every day, 700,000 police officers serve our country. Most Americans probably don't know that our nation loses an average of almost one officer every other day. Those figures do not include the law enforcement personnel who are assaulted and injured each year.

More than 14,000 officers have been killed in the line of duty. The sacrifice of California officers has given our state the highest number of police deaths: 1,205.

The calling to serve in law enforcement comes with bravery and sacrifice. Those who make up the thin blue line protecting our homes, our families and our communities pay a price, and so do the loved ones they leave behind when tragedy strikes.

In particular, I rise in recognize of the jurisdictions that serve my district: The Anaheim Police Department, the Garden Grove Police Department, the Santa Ana Police Department and the Santa Ana Unified School District Police Department, the California Highway Patrol and the Orange County Sheriff.

We cannot replace the officers we've lost. We cannot bring them back to their families or departments. All we can do is grieve for their loss.

But as their federal representatives, we have a greater responsibility. We must ensure that our law enforcement agencies, their officers and staff have the resources they need to do their jobs safely.

And today we fulfill the most solemn part of our obligation to our America's police force: we promise that when an officer does make that sacrifice, he or she earns a place of the highest national respect with all due honor from the U.S. government.